

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	
)	ORDER OF
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of)	
)	REVOCATION
Rachel W. Jones)	
)	
Certificate 224932)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 13, 2006. On October 23, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) had served on Rachel W. Jones a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 224932. The notice was served on Ms. Jones by a Richland County Sheriff's Deputy, as evidenced by an Affidavit of Service signed by the Deputy. Ms. Jones did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to order the revocation of Ms. Jones' certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Jones participated for one year in the S.C. Program for Alternative Certification for Educators and held a one year critical needs certificate that expired on June 30, 2006. Ms. Sellers was employed by Richland County School District Two (District) during the 2005-06 school year and was assigned to Richland Northeast High School as an English teacher. Ms. Jones resigned from her employment with the District on June 7, 2006, following an investigation into allegations that she engaged in unprofessional behavior while chaperoning students on a non school-sponsored trip to the beach. Ms. Jones admitted to

District officials that she purchased alcohol for underage students, consumed excessive amounts of alcohol and smoked marijuana in the presence of students, and kissed a male student.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person. "S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to revoke Ms. Jones' expired certificate. Ms. Jones will not be eligible to reapply for certification in the future until on or after December 12, 2009. Should Ms. Jones wish to reapply for certification at that time, she must meet all current certification requirements and she must appear before the Board of Education for a character fitness review.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac
Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 13, 2006